

Message Text

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44

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-08 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 161400Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL BREMEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1202

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE/FAS, TOBACCO DIV.

ATTN: MR. KIGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, GW, US

SUBJECT: BARDEPOT - GERMAN IMPORTS OF U.S. TOBACCO

REF: BREMEN 63

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. BAT OF HAMBURG, ONE OF WEST GERMANY'S LEADING IMPORTERS OF U.S. TOBACCO, WOULD LIKE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF RENEGOTIATING WITH GERMAN BUNDESBANK THE USE OF EXIMBANK AND CCC CREDITS TO FINANCE U.S. TOBACCO IMPORTS AS QUOTE COMMERCIALLY CUSTOMARY UNQUOTE PAYMENT TERM UNDER BARDEPOT REGULATION. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, BUNDESBANK DECIDED IN FEBRUARY THAT SUCH CREDITS USED FOR REFINANCING AFTER SHIPMENT OF TOBACCO FROM U.S. TO FEDREP WOULD BE SUBJECT TO BARDEPOT REQUIREMENT.

2. FOR PURPOSE OF PREPARING RENEGOTIATION, BAT HAS REQUESTED DATA CONCERNING TOTAL DOLLAR VALUES OF WORLD-WIDE U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS IN 1970, 1971, AND 1972, AS WELL AS THE TOTAL AMOUNTS OF EXIMBANK AND CCC CREDITS USED TO FINANCE THESE EXPORT

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SALES IN EACH YEAR.

3. BAT WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER CCC CREDITS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT SALES FROM 1973 U.S. TOBACCO CROP.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SINCE DATA DESIRED BY BAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE HERE, CONGEN WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM ASAP BY CABLE REPLY. END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: ABOVE MOVE, WHICH IS INSTIGATED BY LEAF DEPARTMENT OF BAT, CONTRADICTS RECENT POSITION TAKEN BY FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF BAT (WHICH WAS SHARED BY OTHER LEADING WEST GERMAN IMPORTERS OF U.S. TOBACCO) THAT USG SHOULD NOT RAISE QUESTION OF QUOTE COMMERCIALLY CUSTOMARY UNQUOTE NATURE OF EXIMBANK AND CCC CREDITS IN VIEW OF PRECARIOUS COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN IMPORTERS AND BUNDESBANK UNDER WHICH BUNDESBANK HAS EXEMPTED FROM BARDEPOT COMMERCIAL U.S. BANK CREDITS USED TO FINANCE TOBACCO PURCHASES UNTIL DATE OF SHIPMENT FROM U.S.

6. BAT IS APPARENTLY NOT COORDINATING ITS POSSIBLE MOVE WITH OTHER MAJOR GERMAN IMPORTERS. OBVIOUSLY, CONGEN CANNOT QUERY BAT'S COMPETITORS AS TO THEIR OPINION ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THIS ACTION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE LATTER'S RECENT EMPHATIC BANDS-OFF RECOMMENDATION, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT THEY WOULD SECOND BAT. THEY MAY EVEN DISCOURAGE ANY PLANNED MOVE BY BAT IF AND WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR ATTENTION.KLEIN

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